



STAR WARS  
THE SITH WAR  
1 OF 6

\$2.50 US  
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# STAR WARS TALES OF THE JEDI™

## The Sith War



Anderson • Carrasco • Ensign

# STAR WARS<sup>®</sup> TALES OF THE JEDI<sup>™</sup> The Sith War

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Special thanks to  
**Allan Kausch at Lucasfilm Licensing**

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Advertising sales:  
503-852-8815 x310

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PRINTED IN CANADA

## Edge of the Whirlwind

It has been six months since the former enemies Exar Kun and Ulic Qel-Droma have joined forces, forced into a common goal by hypnotic visions of a reborn Golden Age of the Sith.

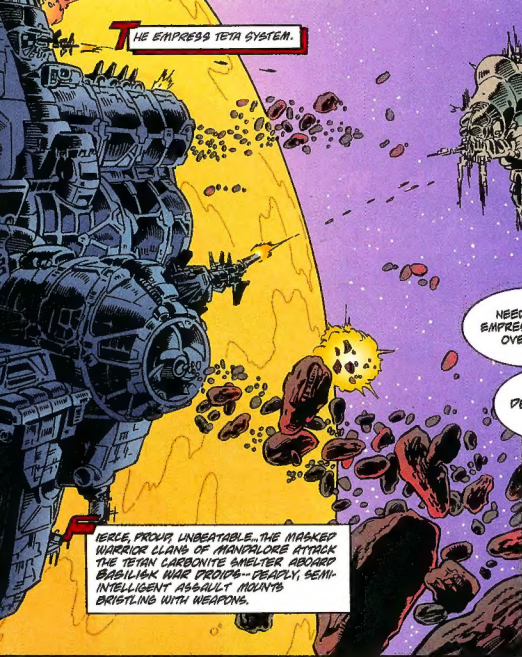
Through his dabbling in forbidden teachings, Exar Kun has fallen completely under the spell of the ancient Sith ways, and he knows he must gain additional disciples to fan the flames of his planned victory.

Meanwhile, in the iron-walled city of Cinnagar in the Empress Teta system, Ulic Qel-Droma has stumbled down the dark path — driven by a distorted need to avenge the murder of his beloved Master Arca, poisoned by dark Sith toxins, and seduced and manipulated by his wily lover Aleema. He has allied himself with Exar Kun to bring about a new Golden Age, following the dream-images that fog his mind. His mission is to gather an army awesome enough to take on even the mighty galactic Republic.

But as their plans proceed, far from the watchful eyes of the loyal Jedi Knights, other vicious crusaders turn their attentions to what may seem to be easy pickings while Ulic is preoccupied . . .



**THE EMPRESS TETA SYSTEM.**



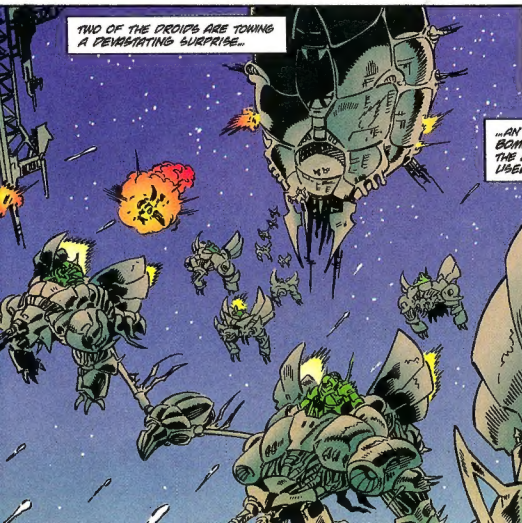
MY WARRIORS  
NEED ANOTHER CRUSADE. THE  
EMPRESS TETA SYSTEM IS IN CHAOS,  
OVERTRETTED BY THEIR  
MANY CONQUESTS.

THE WITCH  
ALEEMA AND HER JEDI  
DEVOTEE ULIC GEL-PROMA WILL  
FALL UNDER THE FIST OF  
MANDALORE!

HERE, PROUD, UNSEATABLE...THE MASKED  
WARRIOR CLANS OF MANDALORE ATTACK  
THE TETAN CARBONITE SHELTER ABOARD  
BASILISK WAR DROIDS--DEADLY, SEMI-  
INTELLIGENT ASSAULT MOUNTS  
BRISTLING WITH WEAPONS.

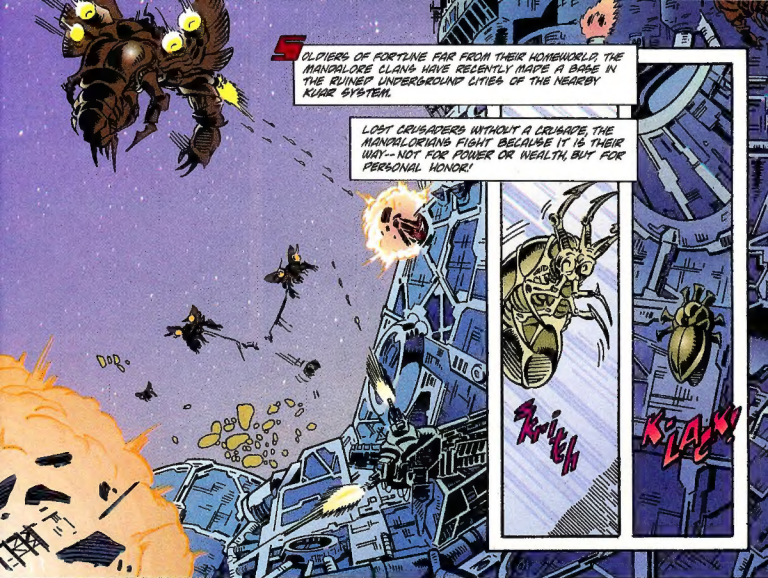


TWO OF THE DROIDS ARE TOWING  
A DEVASTATING SURPRISE...



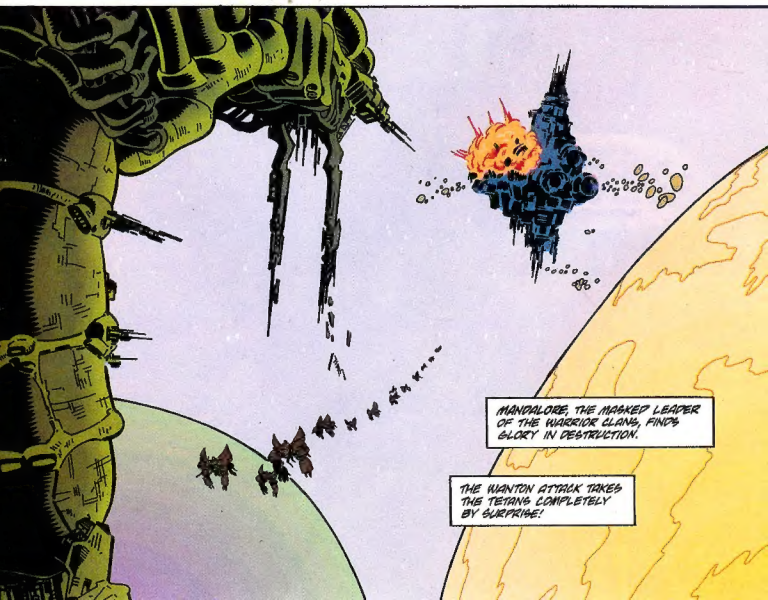
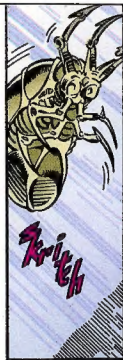
...AN ATOMIC COMPRESSION  
BOMB, FAR SUPERIOR TO  
THE ANTIGUE WEAPONRY  
USED BY THE KRATH.





**S**OLDIERS OF FORTUNE FAR FROM THEIR HOMETOWN, THE MANDALORE CLANS HAVE RECENTLY MADE A BASE IN THE RUINED UNDERGROUND CITIES OF THE NEARBY KUAR SYSTEM.

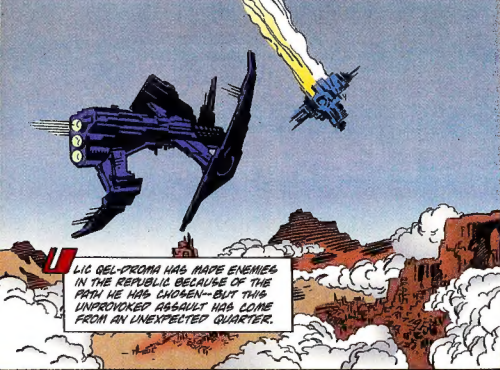
LOST CRUSADERS WITHOUT A CRUSADE, THE MANDALORIANS FIGHT BECAUSE IT IS THEIR WAY--NOT FOR POWER OR WEALTH, BUT FOR PERSONAL HONOR!



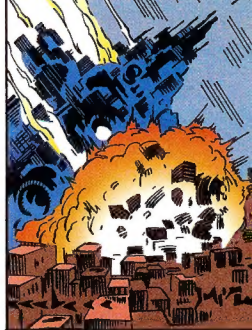
MANDALORE, THE MASKED LEADER OF THE WARRIOR CLANS, FINDS GLORY IN DESTRUCTION.

THE MANTON ATTACK TAKES THE TETANG COMPLETELY BY SURPRISE!





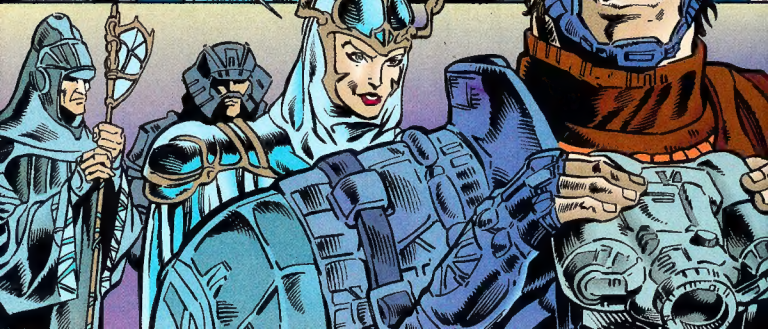
**U**LIC DEL-DROMA HAS MADE ENEMIES IN THE REPUBLIC BECAUSE OF THE PATH HE HAS CHOSEN--BUT THIS UNPROVOKED ASSAULT HAS COME FROM AN UNEXPECTED QUARTER.



IT DOES NOT FIT IN WITH ULIC'S LARGER PLAN.

MANDALORE HAS NOT EVEN MADE DEMANDS! WHAT DOES HE WANT FROM US?

HE WANTS THE SEVEN WORLDS OF TETHA. HE WANTS TO CONQUER. I BELIEVE HE FEELS A BURNING NEED EVEN HE DOESN'T UNDERSTAND





WE REALLY DON'T NEED THIS INTERFERENCE, ALBEEMA. I HAVE WORK TO DO, TO CARRY OUT MY PART OF THE BARGAIN WITH EXAR KUN.



OH, MANDALORE KNOWS ABOUT YOU. YOUR REPUTATION HAS SPREAD TO ALL NEIGHBORING SYSTEMS. I IMAGINE HE FEARS YOU...AS I DO, MY LOVE.

THIS ACT WAS JUST TO GRAB YOUR ATTENTION.



VERY WELL...

...CAPTAIN ROCKS. CONTACT THIS MANDALORE...I WILL GIVE HIM THE TERMS OF HIS SURRENDER.

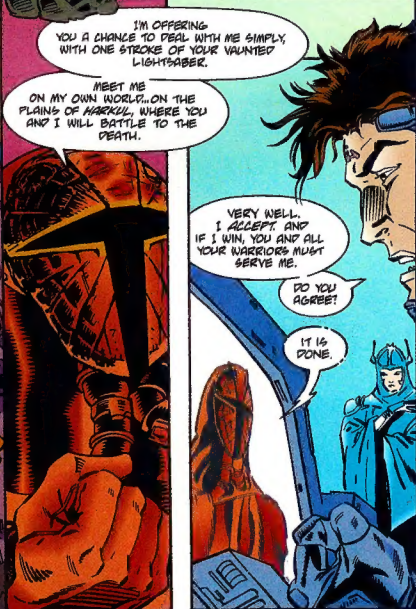


YES, I KNOW OF YOU, JEDI CARRION.

ARE YOU THE CHAMPION WHO WILL MEET ME ON THE FIELD OF HONOR TO DECIDE THE FATE OF THE SEVEN TETAN JEWELS?

NONSENSE. MY ARMIES WILL RIP YOU APART UNLESS YOU SURRENDER TO ME AT ONCE.

YOUR WARRIORS STILL FIGHT WITH ANTIQUES. MY CLANS USE ONLY ADVANCED WEAPONS. WHAT DO YOU THINK WILL HAPPEN WHEN YOU ATTACK US?



I'M OFFERING YOU A CHANCE TO DEAL WITH ME SIMPLY, WITH ONE STROKE OF YOUR VAUNTED LIGHTSABER.

MEET ME ON MY OWN WORLD...ON THE PLAINS OF AARKUL, WHERE YOU AND I WILL BATTLE TO THE DEATH.

VERY WELL. I ACCEPT. AND IF I WIN, YOU AND ALL YOUR WARRIORS MUST SERVE ME.

DO YOU AGREE?

IT IS DONE.



IN THE PEACEFUL GARDENS OF TALLA, A POWERFUL JEDI HOLDS FORTH, PERSUASIVELY PROCLAIMING A RENEWAL OF THE JEDI WAY.

MY JEDI BROTHERS...NO ONE HONORS OUR BELOVED MASTERS MORE THAN I... INDEED I WAS APPRENTICED TO THE GREAT TEACHER VODO-SIOOK BAAS.

MY MASTER HAS BEEN RESPECTED FOR CENTURIES AMONG OUR FRATERNITY...AS A GREAT HISTORIAN AND GATEKEEPER OF THE TERRY'N HOLOGRAN.

ARE YOU TELLING US YOU'RE ONE OF THE GREAT ONES, LIKE MASTER VODO?

MY GREATNESS IS FOR OTHERS TO JUDGE. JEDI LIKE YOURSELF WILL TAKE MY MEASURE, CAY GEL'PRONIA.

ALL I CAN TELL YOU IS THAT I HAVE BEEN FORTUNATE TO UNEARTH FORGOTTEN JEDI SECRETS...THINGS THAT WERE KNOWN THOUSANDS OF YEARS AGO...AND POWERS THAT CAME NATURALLY TO THE JEDI KNIGHTS OF FORGOTTEN TIMES.

AS A TRUE JEDI, I DO NOT INTEND TO HOARD THIS KNOWLEDGE AND KEEP THESE FORCE ABILITIES TO MYSELF.

I WANT TO SHARE THEM, WITH ANY TRUE JEDI WHO WILL JOIN ME.

SOUNDS GREAT. BUT YOU'RE ASKING US TO LEAVE OUR MASTERS AND MAKE YOU OUR TEACHER.

BUT YOU'RE STILL AN APPRENTICE, EXAR. MASTER VODO HAS NOT DECLARED YOU A JEDI MASTER.

I AM WHAT I AM, CRADD. I MUST CONFESS, HOWEVER, THAT SOME OF THE OLD JEDI...EVEN MASTER VODO...ARE SUSPICIOUS OF MY NEW TEACHING.

THEY ARE, PERHAPS, LOSING TOUCH WITH THE TIMES.

DIDN'T MASTER ARCA LET THE DARK SITH MAGIC ESCAPE FROM HIS GRASP?

I SENSE WEAKNESS, INDECISION...





YOU'RE RIGHT. ARCA FAILED MISERABLY ON ONDERON. I CAN'T UNDERSTAND IT. HE WAS A GREAT JEDI.

I WAS THERE, ZONA. WE WERE ATTACKED BY AN AVATAR-- A FALLEN JEDI NAMED FREEDON NADD.

MASTER ARCA DIED BRAVELY. HE SACRIFICED HIMSELF TO PROTECT OTHER JEDI.



EXACTLY. AND WHAT HAS BECOME OF THIS FREEDON NADD THAT OUTFOKED OUR GREAT MASTERST

I TOOK CARE OF HIM PERSONALLY. FINISHED HIM.

REALLY, EXART YOU?



YES. I HUNTED DOWN THE EVIL SPIRIT.

I WENT TO ONDERON, BUT ARCA DID NOT APPROVE OF MY PLAN TO FINISH WHAT HE WAS UNABLE TO ACCOMPLISH.

ARCA DIDN'T LIKE YOU AT ALL, EXAR KUN.


WHAT WAS HE AFRAID OF?




YES. VERY TRUE. AND I WENT ABOUT MY BUSINESS WITHOUT ANY HELP FROM ARCA...OR HIS JEDI, STUDENTS.

I FOUND THE SPIRIT OF THIS DREADED DARK JEDI, FREEDON NADD. I SPOKE TO HIM, LEARNED THINGS, LEARNED HIS SCHEMES, LEARNED WHERE SITH ARTIFACTS WERE HIDDEN...


...THEN I BATTLED HIM...AND WON. FREEDON NADD IS NO MORE.




PROVE IT,  
EXAR KUN. WHY SHOULD  
WE BELIEVE YOUR  
BOASTS?



SEE  
FOR YOURSELF. THIS  
ANCIENT JEDI AMULET  
TELLS ALL.




JEDI AMULETS?  
I'VE NEVER HEARD OF  
THEM.




OF COURSE YOU HAVEN'T.  
AS I SAID, SOME THINGS WERE  
FORGOTTEN. SOME THINGS  
WERE SUPPRESSED AND  
FORBIDDEN.

THE MASTERS  
CONSIDERED SUCH  
AMULETS TOO POWERFUL FOR  
YOUNG JEDI KNIGHTS  
TO USE.



BUT I AM NOT CONTENT TO LEAVE  
THINGS HIDDEN. I AM NOT CONTENT TO  
LET GREAT AND USEFUL SECRETS  
GATHER DUST.



IF YOU ARE  
LIKE ME... IF YOU CARE  
ABOUT THE FUTURE OF THE  
JEDI... YOU WILL JOIN ME IN MY  
EXPLORATION OF THE MOST  
ANCIENT, MOST WISE, AND MOST  
POWERFUL JEDI SECRETS...  
THEN WE CAN CHANGE  
THE GALAXY!



LIC GEL-DROMA IS  
CONFIDENT IN THE  
FORCE... AND THE  
DARK-SIDE POWER  
HE HAS BEGUN TO  
EXERCISE WITH  
SKILL.

HE HAD PERMITTED THE WARLORD TO DEFINE THE RULES OF COMBAT. THE DUEL TAKES PLACE ON THE OPEN PLAINS OF MARKUL.

MANDALORE'S WEAPON OF CHOICE IS THE WAR-MOUNT FAVORED BY HIS MEN-- THE BASILISK WAR DROID, OPEN-COMBAT MODEL, CUSTOMIZED TO MANDALORE'S PERSONAL SPECIFICATIONS.

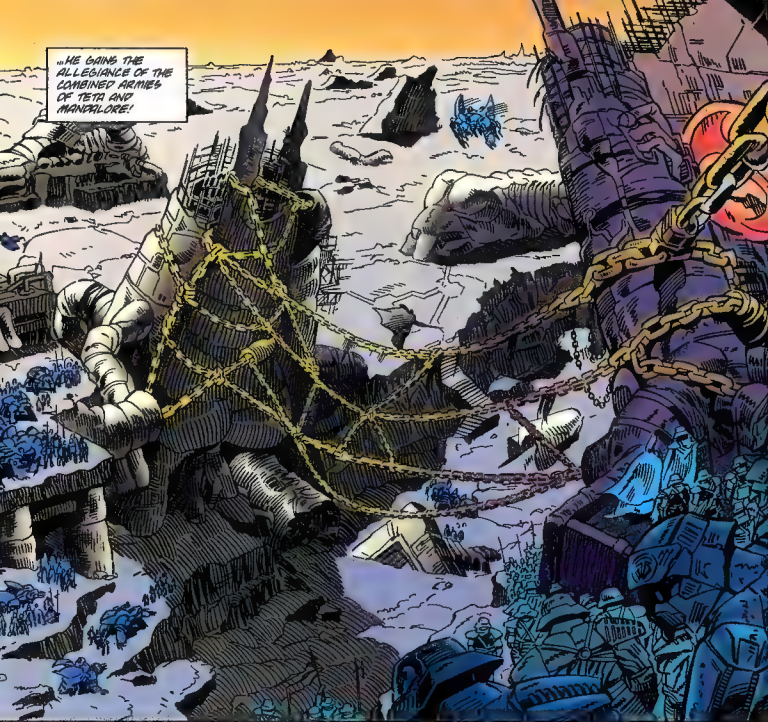
MANDALORE HAS WRITTEN OTHER RULES TO THROW THE BALANCE TO HIMSELF. GEL-DROMA IS NOT PERMITTED A MOUNT... HE IS NOT EVEN PERMITTED TO STAND ON SOLID GROUND.

AS HIS AMBITIOUS LOVER  
ALEEMA WATCHES, ULIC  
MUST BE CONFIDENT IN  
HIS JEDI SKILLS.

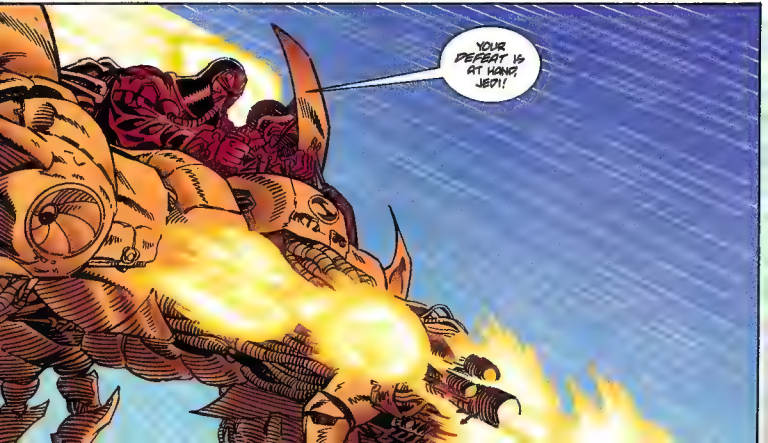
IF HE IS DEFEATED, ULIC WILL  
NOT ONLY LOSE HIS LIFE--BUT  
ALL HE HAS WORKED TOWARD.

BUT IF HE WINS...

...HE GAINS THE  
ALLEGIANCE OF THE  
COMBINED ARMIES  
OF TETA AND  
MANDALORE!



YOUR  
DEFEAT IS  
AT HAND,  
JEDI!



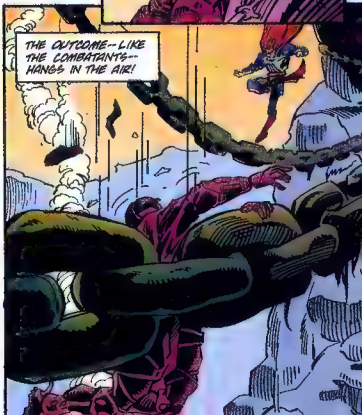
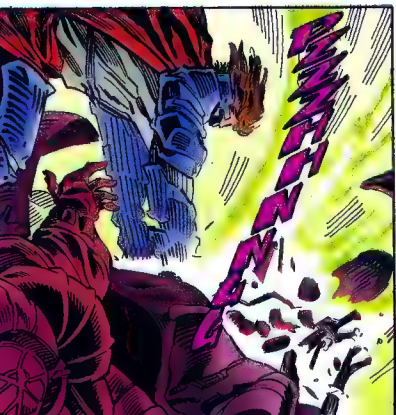





**T**ECHNOLOGY, NO MATTER HOW DEADLY, IS NO MATCH FOR THE POWER OF THE FORCE.

YES, WHILE ULIC'S GRASP OF THE FORCE IS GREAT...

...MANDALORE'S SKILL IN BATTLE MAY BE GREATER!



THE OUTCOME--LIKE THE COMBATANTS--HANGS IN THE AIR!



ULIC WAITS WARILY FOR MANDALORE'S NEXT MOVE.

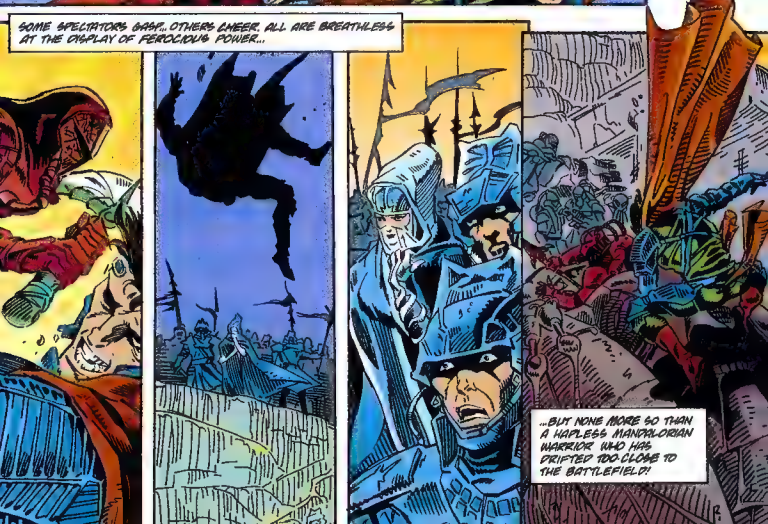
YOU FIGHT UNFAIRLY, GEL-DROMAI! PUT AWAY YOUR BLOODTHIRSTY WEAPON... USE THIS, THE SIMPLE WEAPON OF MY FOREFATHERS.

I CAN DEFEAT YOU, REGARDLESS OF THE WEAPON, MANDALORE.



HAHHAH!

SOME SPECTATORS GASP... OTHERS CHEER. ALL ARE BREATHLESS AT THE DISPLAY OF FEROCIOUS POWER...



...BUT NONE MORE SO THAN A HAPLESS MANDALORIAN WARRIOR WHO HAS DRIFTED TOO CLOSE TO THE BATTLEFIELD!





PERHAPS  
I'LL FIGHT WITH ONE  
OF YOUR WEAPONS,  
MANDALORE!

WHY NOT SURRENDER?



A  
WARRIOR  
KNOWS NOTHING  
OF SURRENDER.  
THE DAY WILL  
BE MINE,  
JEDI!



OH?  
WHICH DAY IS  
THAT?



A GLORIOUS COMBAT,  
ULIC QEL-DROMA. I CEDE.  
MY WARRIORS ARE YOURS.  
KILL ME.

I AM  
NOT INTERESTED IN  
YOUR DEATH, MANDALORE.  
I HAVE A BETTER FATE  
IN MIND FOR YOU. A  
MUCH BETTER  
FATE.

IN THE VAST JEDI LIBRARY ON OBBUS, NOMI SLINRIDER CONTINUES HER TRAINING IN JEDI BATTLE MEDITATION, WITH ONE OF THE OLDEST AND WISEST OF THE JEDI MASTERS.

HOW DOES THE FORCE SEEM TO YOU WHEN YOU MEDITATE, MY CHILDT?

LIKE A GREAT CALM SEA, MASTER OGAN-URR--A SEA WITH LIGHT COMING FROM ITS DEPTHS. I FEEL SO PEACEFUL WHEN I MEDITATE ON THE FORCE.

YES, AS I DO, AND YET WE MUST CARRY WEAPONS AND MAKE WAR TO DEFEND THE WEAK.

TOO MUCH WAR... TOO MUCH FIGHTING... WARS ARE INEVITABLE, BUT WARS DO NOT MAKE A JEDI. THE FORCE MAKES A JEDI.

MASTER THON TAUGHT ME THE LIGHTSABER, DESPITE MY RESISTANCE, BUT HE ALSO ENCOURAGED ME TO SHAPE THE FORCE WITH INNER VISUALIZATION.

MASTER ARCA INSTRUCTED ME FURTHER. THIS ABILITY COMES NATURALLY TO ME, WHEN I STILL MY MIND IN BATTLE.

AH, JEDI BATTLE MEDITATION. THON IS GOOD AT THAT. ARCA WAS EVEN BETTER.

ARCA COULD RAISE THE WILL OF A DEFEATED ARMY AND MAKE THEM VICTORIOUS.

MASTER OGAN-URR... CAN THOSE WHO CHOOSE THE DARK SIDE ALSO USE BATTLE MEDITATION?

YES... ALTHOUGH IT IS NOT SEEN SO MUCH ANYMORE.

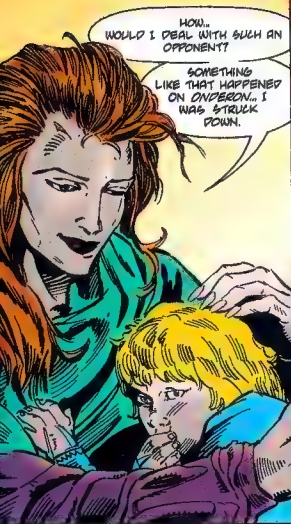
HERE, CHILDT. A BOPA TREAT.

IN THE OLD DAYS, THE DARK LORDS OF THE SITH BUILT MEDITATION CHAMBERS IN THEIR WARSHIPS.

IN THE HEAT OF BATTLE, THEY WOULD SEAL THEMSELVES IN THE CHAMBERS...

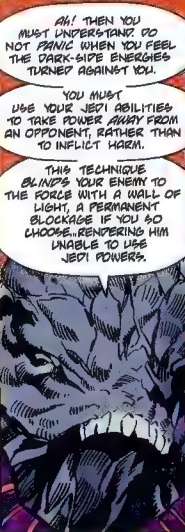
...AND DIRECT POWERFUL VISUALIZATIONS UPON THE CONFLICT THAT RAGED ALL AROUND THEM.





HOW...  
WOULD I DEAL WITH SUCH AN  
OPPONENT?

SOMETHING  
LIKE THAT HAPPENED  
ON ONDERON... I  
WAS STRUCK  
DOWN.



AH! THEN YOU  
MUST UNDERSTAND DO  
NOT PANIC WHEN YOU FEEL  
THE DARK-SIDE ENERGIES  
TURNED AGAINST YOU.

YOU MUST  
USE YOUR JEDI ABILITIES  
TO TAKE POWER AWAY FROM  
AN OPPONENT, RATHER THAN  
TO INFLICT HARM.

THIS TECHNIQUE  
BLINDS YOUR ENEMY TO  
THE FORCE WITH A WALL OF  
LIGHT, A PERMANENT  
BLOCKAGE IF YOU SO  
CHOOSE...RENDERING HIM  
UNABLE TO USE  
JEDI POWERS.



IT SOUNDS  
DIFFICULT, MASTER ODAN-URR--AND  
FRIGHTENING.

IT IS  
DIFFICULT.

AND IT  
IS THE MOST  
DEVASTATING  
ATTACK  
POSSIBLE USING  
THE POWERS OF  
THE LIGHT SIDE TO  
BLOCK A JEDI FROM  
THE FORCE--EVEN  
A DARK JEDI--IS A  
TERRIBLE  
THING.

IN THE DAYS OF  
THE FALL OF THE SITH EMPIRE,  
I MYSELF BECAME ADEPT AT  
SUCH POWERS.



THAT WAS WHEN  
WE FOUGHT THE LAST OF  
THE DARK LORDS...WHEN THE  
JEDI AND THE  
REPUBLIC PROVE  
THE SITH TO  
EXTINCTION.

THAT WAS  
WHEN I CAPTURED THIS  
DARK HOLOGRAM, THE  
ONLY SITH HOLOGRAM, AS  
FAR AS ANYBODY  
KNOWS.



LOCKED WITHIN  
ITS RECESSES, ACCESSIBLE  
ONLY TO A DARK LORD OF THE SITH, ARE  
THE FORGOTTEN HISTORIES AND LORE,  
DATING BACK A HUNDRED THOUSAND  
YEARS AND MORE.

SUCH  
KNOWLEDGE IS DANGEROUS,  
AND WE MUST KEEP IT  
PROTECTED HERE ON  
OSLUS.

EXAR KUN HAS LEFT THE YOUNG JEDI KNIGHTS TO DEBATE HIS POWERFUL WORDS AMONG THEMSELVES. WITHDRAWING TO THE GREAT LIBRARY, HE SEEKS SOMETHING VERY PRECIOUS...

THANK YOU, MASTER ODAN-URI. I WILL PONDER THE NEW TECHNIQUE YOU HAVE TAUGHT ME.

YOU ARE A GOOD AND STRONG JEDI, NOMI SUNRIDER. AND THIS LITTLE ONE... SOMEDAY SHE WILL BE A JEDI MASTER, WITH MANY APPRENTICES.

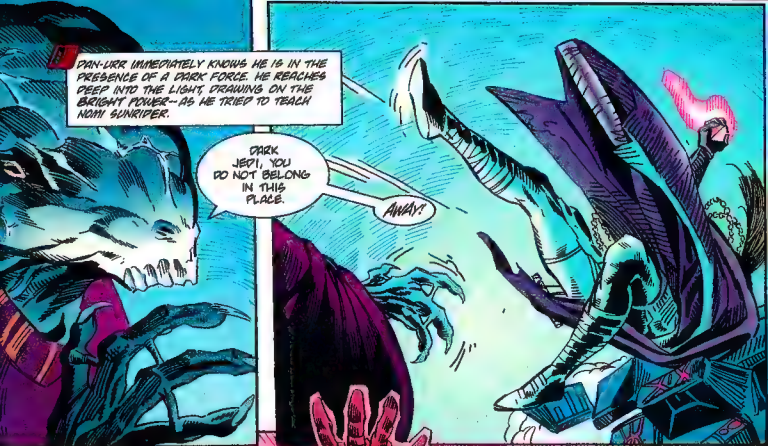
THE FORCE IS WITH NOMI SUNRIDER... BUT I HURT INSIDE FOR HER. THERE ARE DARK TIMES YET TO COME.

STRANGE... THE SITH HOLOGRAN IS GLOWING BRIGHTER...

IT IS NOT STRANGE, OLD ONE...

...IT IS SIMPLY BEING CALLED TO ITS RIGHTFUL OWNER!





DAN-LRR IMMEDIATELY KNOWS HE IS IN THE PRESENCE OF A DARK FORCE. HE REACHES DEEP INTO THE LIGHT, DRAWING ON THE BRIGHT POWER--AS HE TRIED TO TEACH NOMI SUNKIPER.

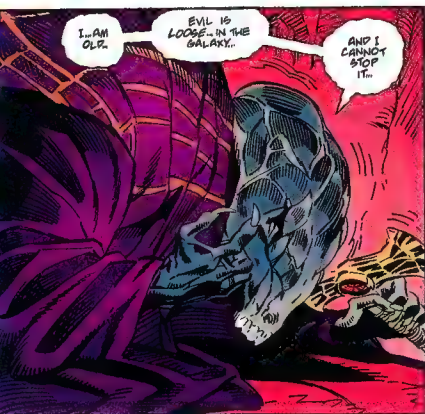
DARK  
JEETI, YOU  
DO NOT BELONG  
IN THIS  
PLACE.

AWAY!



MASTER, DO  
YOU REALLY KNOW  
WHO I AM?

I AM  
THE DARK LORD OF  
THE SITH.



I...AM  
OLD.

EVIL IS  
LOOSE...IN THE  
GALAXY...

AND I  
CANNOT  
STOP  
IT...



YES...  
YOU ARE OLD...  
OLD AND  
DEAD.

YOU  
SHOULD HAVE  
JUST GIVEN ME  
THE SITH  
HOLOCRON.

**I** OLAN-URR HAS GONE TO THE FORCE, LEAVING THE DARKEST POWER IN THE GALAXY TO WALK AWAY WITH SOMETHING THAT WILL MAKE HIM EVEN STRONGER.

I WONDER IF HE WOULD HAVE LIKED IT BETTER IF I HAD SEALED HIM IN A SITH CRYSTAL!

EXAR! WE'VE BEEN LOOKING ALL OVER FOR YOU! YOU'VE GOT YOURSELF SOME STUDENTS!

RIGHT. WE'RE WITH YOU, KUN. WHEN DO WE LEAVE FOR YAVIN?

WH- WHAT HAPPENED? ISN'T THAT MASTER OLAN-URR'S ROBE AND STAFF?

YES... HE WAS ANCIENT AND IT WAS HIS TIME.

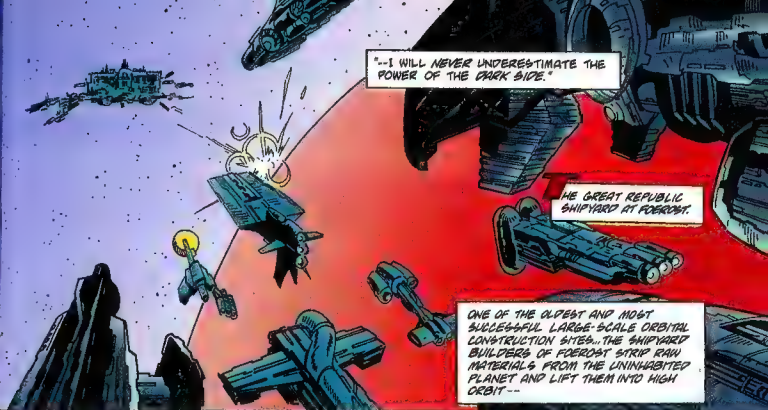
BUT BEFORE HE LEFT, HE GAVE ME A GIFT. A RARE HOLOGRAN.

HE SAID IT WAS A FITTING PRESENT FOR A JEDI MASTER.

I AM A JEDI MASTER. OLAN-URR HAS PASSED HIS FLAME TO ME.

I AM THE KEEPER OF THE FUTURE... WE HAVE GREAT DEEDS AHEAD OF US. I PROMISE YOU ONE THING...





"--I WILL NEVER UNDERESTIMATE THE POWER OF THE DARK SIDE."

THE GREAT REPUBLIC SHIPYARD AT FOEROST.

ONE OF THE OLDEST AND MOST SUCCESSFUL LARGE-SCALE ORBITAL CONSTRUCTION SITES...THE SHIPYARD BUILDS OF FOEROST STRIP RAW MATERIALS FROM THE UNINHABITED PLANET AND LIFT THEM INTO HIGH ORBIT--



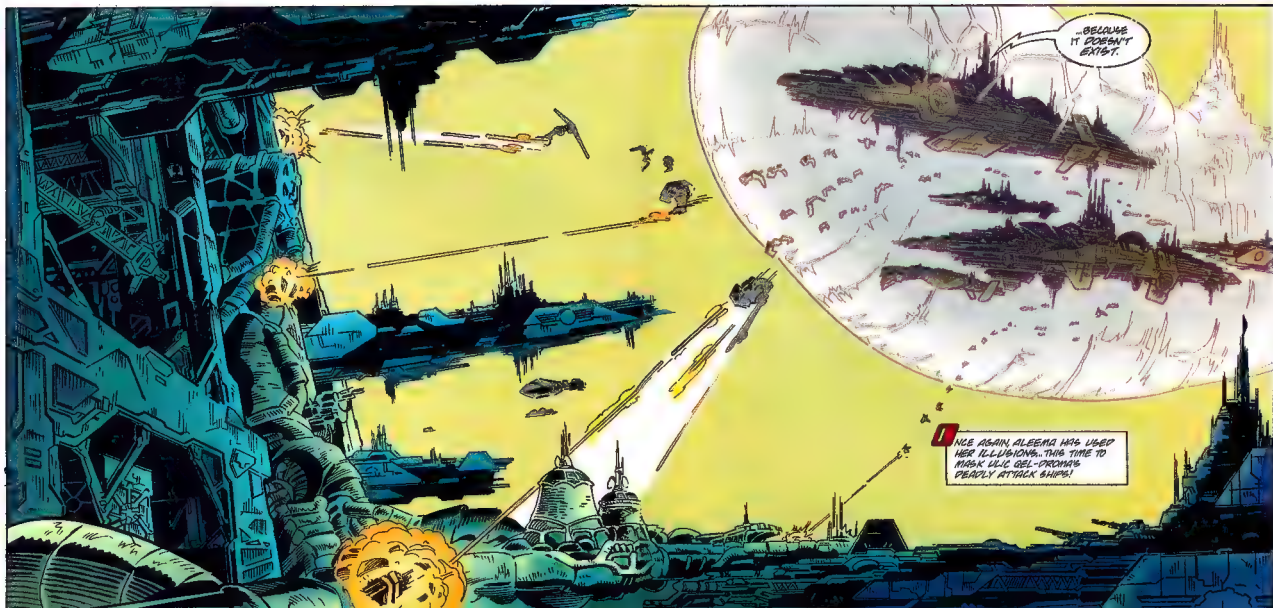
--WHERE, FOR CENTURIES, THE FOEROST SHIPYARD'S HAVE PRODUCED A STEADY STREAM OF ADVANCED WARSHIPS FOR THE FLEET OF THE GALACTIC REPUBLIC.

WAKE UP  
DOWN THERE, GRID SEVEN!  
WE'VE GOT A SHIP LEAVING HYPERSPACE--  
ASKIN' TO DOCK FOR REPAIRS  
TO HER HULL!


A BIG ONE,  
FROM THE READINGS I'M  
GETTING. MAYBE THE HYPER-  
SCAN'S BROKEN.

OKAY, TOWER  
BRAVO...GOT 'EM ON MY  
SENSORS. TELL 'EM BAY 17B  
IS OPEN FOR EMERGENCY  
REPAIRS.


WHOA...  
WAIT A  
MINUTE...







WITH HIS NEW MANDALORIAN ALLIES ON POINT, ULIC TARGETS THE SHIPYARD'S CONTROL DECKS AND OPERATIONS CENTERS...



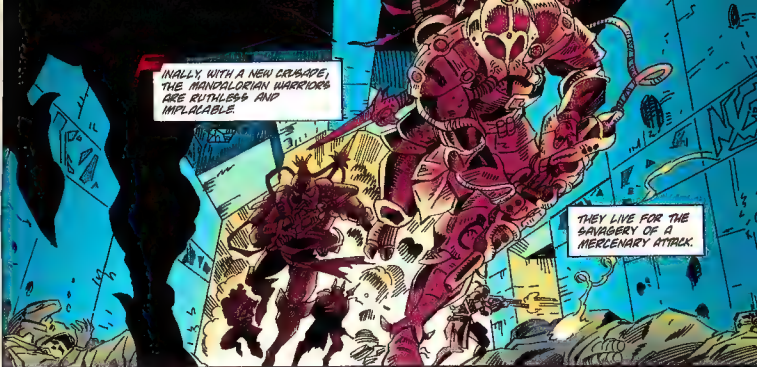
...WHILE HIS CHAOS FIGHTERS DECIMATE THE DEFENSIVE STATIONS.



THE SHIPYARD IS BOARDED-- SWARMING WITH ARMORED TETAN SOLDIERS.



THE CRUEL BATTLE IS OVER ALMOST AS SOON AS IT HAS BEGUN.




FINALLY, WITH A NEW CRUSADE,  
THE MANDALORIAN WARRIORS  
ARE RUTHLESS AND  
IMPLACABLE.

THEY LIVE FOR THE  
SAVAGERY OF A  
MERCENARY ATTACK.

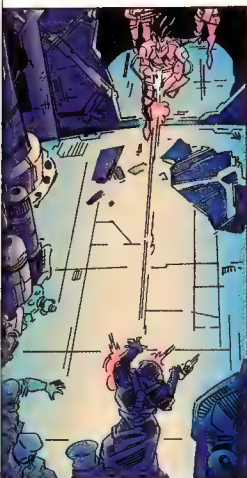


I AM CLOSING  
THIS SHIPYARD GIVE ME  
THE OPERATIONS CODES OF  
EVERY NEWLY COMPLETED  
WARSHIP.




I CAN'T  
DO THAT... I DON'T  
HAVE THE CODES, THE  
REPUBLIC BRINGS THE  
CODES WHEN THEY  
PICK UP THE  
SHIPS.

YOU  
LIE.



WE KNOW THE CODES  
ARE HERE. WHO ELSE CAN GIVE  
THEM TO US?



I'LL DO  
IT... JUST STOP THE KILLING  
PLEASE. WE'RE ONLY HONEST  
WORKMEN--

GEL-DROMA! WE'VE JUST  
RECEIVED A SIGNAL FROM  
EXAR KUN. HE IS EN ROUTE  
TO YAVIN FOUR.

GOOD.  
RIGHT ON  
SCHEDULE.  
BEAM THE  
SIGNAL  
HERE.





ULLI! MY HALF  
OF THE BARGAIN GOES  
FORWARD! I HAVE TWENTY  
KNIGHTS, READY TO BEGIN  
TRAINING UNDER MY  
INSTRUCTION!

ONLY  
TWENTY?



I HAVE  
TWO ENTIRE  
ARMIES,  
KUN.

AND NOW I  
HAVE THREE HUNDRED OF  
THE REPUBLIC'S NEWEST  
WARSHIPS.



WELL  
DONE, WELL  
DONE. WE'LL  
NEED ALL THAT  
ARMOR FOR THE  
ENGAGEMENTS  
I HAVE  
PLANNED.

GATHER  
MORE SHIPS  
WHILE I TRAIN  
MY JEDI!



I'VE GOT  
THE CODES.  
THE SHIPS  
ARE OURS.

WE CAN  
LEAVE AT ONCE  
FOR  
CORUSCANT.


CORUSCANT?  
WHAT'S THIS ABOUT CORUSCANT?  
THAT'S THE SEAT OF GALACTIC  
GOVERNMENT!



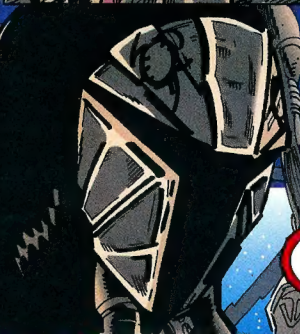
I AM  
ATTACKING  
CORUSCANT  
AT  
ONCE. THE REPUBLIC  
FLEET HAS BEEN  
ALERTED TO OUR  
PRESENCE  
HERE.

WE HAVE  
LED THEM TO  
EXPECT MORE TERROR-  
ATTACKS ON SHIPYARDS  
AND MILITARY  
OUTPOSTS.

THEREFORE,  
THE CORRECT MOVE IS TO  
ATTACK CORUSCANT...  
AT ONCE.




FOOL! YOU'LL  
JEOPARDIZE MY WHOLE  
PLAN! WE MUST BUILD SLOWLY...  
ADD TO THE FORCES... THEN  
WE WILL ATTACK  
TOGETHER.




I DON'T  
KNOW WHO YOU  
ARE, BUT ULIC AND  
I CAN HANDLE  
CORUSCANT.

THE MANDALORE  
CLANS ARE THE BEST FIGHTERS  
IN THE GALAXY... WE DON'T  
NEED TO WAIT FOR A  
FEW JEDI.




I CAN  
SEE THAT NO  
APPEALS OF MINE  
WILL CHANGE YOUR  
MIND.



VERY WELL,  
GEL-DROMA. PROVE YOUR  
MANHOOD IF YOU MUST. IF  
YOU FAIL, I WILL GO ON  
WITHOUT YOU.



I'M GOING  
TO PROVE THAT THE REPUBLIC  
IS WEAK AND VULNERABLE,  
EXAR KUN.



ANYBODY WHO CALLS  
HIMSELF "DARK LORD OF THE  
SITH" WOULD GRASP WHAT  
I'M UP TO.

A TRUE  
DARK LORD WOULD BE  
READY TO GO TO  
WAR!

NEXT:  
THE BATTLE  
FOR  
CORUSCANT.



# JEDI JOURNALS

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Welcome back to Jedi Journals. After a hiatus of sorts, we're going to try to catch up on a batch of correspondence from the six-issue *Dark Lords of the Sith* series that concluded several months ago. I'm going to try my damndest to make sure there's a letter column in each issue of *The Sith War*, so please write in—especially if you haven't written before, or if you haven't written in a long while—and let us know what you think of, among other things, Kevin's scripting and Dario's pencils (of which I'm very excited about). For those of you not familiar with my letter column *modus operandi*, as a rule, I publish the complete addresses of correspondents lucky enough to be chosen to appear here, so as to stimulate communication between like-minded fans. It's worked well in the past, but if you're dead set against letting anyone else know exactly where to hunt you down, add a note in your letter that you'd prefer not to have us publish your full address.

Now, let's get started with some mail that's been sitting around for almost a year (hope you're all still living at the same addresses!):

Col. Ron Short  
388 Sharon Drive  
Riverview Estates  
Ledbetter, KY 42058

I have awaited *Dark Lords of the Sith* with all the excitement and awe that you would expect out of a young child at Christmas. Needless to say, Dark Horse Comics did not let me down. Wow! What a barn burner... from front to back, inside and out, this is your best work ever! The entire *Tales of the Jedi* saga is so very *Star Wars*, I love it!

*Dark Lords of the Sith* is awesome, totally awesome. It's definitely all that and then some, plus a little bit more! After the death of Galactic Emperor Palpatine and Lord Darth Vader in *Return of the Jedi*, I had no one to cheer for (did I fail to mention I'm a big dark Jedi fan?). Now, thanks to Dark Horse and Kevin J. Anderson [and Tom Veitch] (Kev, you're the best—the Jedi Academy trilogy rules), I have the reborn emperor, Freedon Nadd, Sith Sorcerers, and my favorite, Exar

Kun. I can't wait until he turns to the dark side and takes Ulic with him. Until then, thanks for writing the story I've always wanted to read. I only wish it was a movie...

Keep up the great work and may the Force be with you.

P. S.: Thanks to all the *Star Wars* writers for keeping us busy until 1997. P. P. S.: I've noticed in *Dark Empire* and in *A Guide to the Star Wars Universe*, that the spelling of the Jedi Holocron gatekeeper is different than *Tales of the Jedi*, *Dark Lords*, and the Jedi Academy trilogy. Is it Bodo-Siosk Baas or Vodo-Siosk Baas?

Our guy is Master Vodo-Siosk Baas, an ancestor of the Bodo Baas referred to in *Dark Empire*.



Jeff Fleming  
231 Del Prado Dr.  
Campbell, CA 95008

I've really enjoyed many of your comics titles and movies. *The Mask* and *Timecop* were excellent films. I have almost all of the *Mask* comics and I am waiting for *Timecop* to come out. One series I've really been interested in is *Star Wars: Tales of the Jedi*. I have a few comments and questions about the series:

- 1) Does the series have any connection with the upcoming *Star Wars* films? If not, how about a *Tales of the Jedi* movie?
- 2) How about a source book containing all of the Jedi within the series? I think it would be really great to read about the different Jedi to find out about their pasts and specific powers.
- 3) Can you get into Shoaneb Culu more? The idea of a blind Jedi is totally intriguing.
- 4) What exactly is Nomi Sunrider's Jedi Battle Meditation and her internal visualization?
- 5) Are Ulic Qel-Droma and Nomi Sunrider going to have a serious relationship?
- 6) What are your plans with *Tales of the Jedi* after *Dark Lords of the Sith*?

By the numbers: 1) *Tales of the Jedi* and the various Dark Horse

Comics follow-up series are all set in a time four thousand years prior to the events of the *Star Wars* movies; while the upcoming trilogy of movies from George Lucas will be set prior to the original trilogy, it will only be the span of a generation or so (showcasing the lives of Anakin Skywalker and Ben Kenobi as young men), rather than several millennia; 2) West End Games may have something like this in mind to add to their fine group of *Star Wars* gaming products; meanwhile, check out the fall issue of the *Star Wars Insider*, which should be out on newsstands about the same time as this issue of *The Sith War*, for the first part of a two-part continuation of *A Guide to the Star Wars Universe*, showcasing the people, places, and events of the *Tales of the Jedi* universe; 3) I agree that Shoaneb is a fascinating character, and we promise you'll see more of her in future issues of *The Sith War*; 4) Nomi has the rare Jedi talent to affect the outcome of events by visualizing exactly what that outcome will be—something that would come in pretty darn handy in the middle of a battle, I'd say; 5) it looks like events are conspiring against a Ulic-Nomi relationship, but you never know...; 6) Kevin and I were talking just the other day about what to do after *Dark Lords of the Sith*; there are so many hints in *Dark Lords* and *Sith War* of pivotal events past and future... what would you say, for instance, to a series chronicling the life and times of Naga Sadow and the fall of the Sith Empire? Anybody else want to see something else? Write in and let us know...



Ryan Pominville  
628 7th St. N  
Hudson, WI 54016

As I recall a wise Jedi Master once said, "Do not underestimate the power of the dark side." I am wishing that our old friend, Exar Kun, would remember the same. You do have to feel sorry for this guy. He is a true, tragic hero.

*Star Wars: Tales of the Jedi—Dark Lords of the Sith* is an intriguing read. The power and mystery of the dark side feeds through to the reader of the first two issues. Exar Kun seems to be taking

the path to the other side that Luke took during *Dark Empire*. But I think that Exar is doing this for very selfish reasons. He will quickly fall prey to the dark side. He might also try to resurrect Freedon Nadd. Kevin Anderson's great book, *Dark Apprentice*, tells me that he did succeed in the former. The book also revealed that he was the one who built the temples on the fourth moon of the planet Yavin, as seen in *A New Hope*! Maybe these temples were used to harness, or resurrect the power of Freedon Nadd himself, if that is what Exar Kun is going to do.

Anyway, I only hope that Nomi Sunrider has all of her Jedi training in place.

It's interesting that you see Exar Kun as a tragic hero. You admit he's lusting after Sith power for purely selfish reasons, and that doesn't strike me as a very heroic thing to do. Wouldn't Ulic much more comfortably fit the bill as a stereotypical tragic hero? He embroiled himself in his current situation for seemingly more honorable reasons (to help bring down the Krath and their Sith magic by insinuating himself into their good graces), and now finds himself inexorably and perhaps irretrievably drawn to the dark side.

Robert's comments following are condensed from several missives he provided us regularly following each and every issue of *Dark Lords*. Thanks for the support, Robert, and definitely write again and let us know what you think of *Sith War*:

Robert Knaus  
320 Fisher St.  
Walpole, MA 02081

The first issue of *Star Wars: Dark Lords of the Sith* was spectacular, wonderfully evoking the visual style of the films, while containing much more story depth than any movie, no matter how good, could possibly contain. The script by Tom Veitch and Kevin J. Anderson contained all of the classic *Star Wars* elements: exciting swordplay, spectacular space battles, political upheaval, and the eternal struggle between the light and dark sides of the Force. They've also provided vividly well-realized characters, with Ulic Qel-Droma and Nomi Sunrider my early favorites. It's still too early to decide if I'll grow to love these characters as much as Luke, Han, Leia, and the rest, but we've still got eleven issues to go. The art of Chris Gossett and Mike Barreiro is astonishing, giving every beautifully detailed panel a wondrous sense of high-tech antiquity. Pam Rambo did her usual superlative job on the color

hues, and Hugh Fleming provided a knockout cover. If you keep this up, Lucas'll have a lot to live up to in the next trilogy.

*Sith* is a monumental turning point in the *Star Wars* mythos, and a hell of a good read in the bargain. Jordi Ensign's inks perfectly complemented Chris Gossett's unbelievable pencil work, even topping Mike Barreiro's work last ish. The scenes of Krath warriors surging from their battleships as space fighters soar overhead vividly recall old WWII newsreels, adding to the high-tech, antique look of the book. Weirdly enough, this ties in with Lucas and Spielberg's fascination with "the Big One." Look at their collaborations on the *Indiana Jones* films, Lucas' *Young Indy* series, and Spielberg's *Schindler's List* [not to mention *1941* and *Empire of the Sun*]. The great purge of the Jedi Knights at the hands of the Emperor and Darth Vader is obviously inspired by the Holocaust. Did Lucas intend this, I wonder? Whether or not he did, he provided a wonderful canvas.

I never would have believed that *Star Wars*, without George Lucas' original cast of characters, could possibly live up to — let alone *top* — the films. The death of Ulic Qel-Droma's Master Arca was shockingly sudden and amazingly moving. Can Ulic learn the secrets of the dark side without being seduced by its evil power? Luke Skywalker managed to resist its pull thousands of years beyond Ulic's time, but he had the fate of a galaxy resting on his shoulders. Once again, Chris Gossett and Jordi Ensign's art was absolutely spellbinding. The scenes of antique spacecraft soaring through the skies of Deneba were majestic and awe-inspiring, while the hand-to-Force fight between the Jedi and war-droids was viscerally thrilling. Special kudos to Hugh Fleming for his powerful cover illustration. May the Force be with you...

David Peattie  
4517 Birch Bark Rd.  
Concord, CA 94521

Some fast thoughts on the first issue of the latest *Star Wars: Tales of the Jedi* miniseries, *Dark Lords of the Sith*. As with your previous *Tales of the Jedi* efforts, this one looks to be a winner so far. As with George Lucas' original efforts, the films that started it all, I am beginning to see how the various threads come together to form a larger tapestry; this is perhaps one of the most magical things about the *Star Wars* concept... while each story can stand on its own and be satisfying in its own right, putting them together and considering

their respective ramifications you can put together a much bigger picture... and at the same time, you can come up with ways to build on that and expand the picture even more. Fascinating!

As for the story itself, it's obvious that Exar Kun is to be the next Jedi-in-training to be lost to the dark side of the Force. The question is, will he remain there as Darth Vader did, or will he reclaim his goodness at some point as Luke Skywalker did? I don't know if the answers will be found here or in some later miniseries (if at all), but I do know I look forward to finding out!

Since the battle is just beginning, and all its myriad twists and turns have yet to occur, it's really too early for me to be able to say much else about the story just yet. I'll probably have more to say when issue #6 shows up some months from now, but so far, I like what I see... and I'll definitely still be here for #6!

Thanks to fill-in colorist Rachelle Menashe, who helped us out for a month while regular colorist Pam Rambo was busy giving birth to darling Tristan! Mother and daughter are doing great (like mother, like daughter: Tristan has already taken a stab at finger painting!), and Pam (or maybe Tristan...) will be back on colors next issue.

Incidentally, for you *Star Wars* fans out there with access to any of the major on-line services, you can reach us by sending e-mail to the addresses listed in our letter column header (be sure that your mail includes "Jedi Journals" in the header).



**NEXT MONTH:**

Behind an absolutely breathtaking Hugh Fleming cover, *Sith War* #2 features a visit to Exar Kun's secret hideout on Yavin Four, where some dire plans for the Jedi Knights are being formulated, as well as the inevitable clash of brothers, as Ulic and Cay find themselves on opposing sides of the battle between light and dark! See you in 30 days! —Bob Cooper